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# A Defection Case Angers Both the Germanys

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BONN, July 16 — What appears to be an old-fashioned cloak-and-dagger story is threatening to create serious political strains in relations between the two Germanys.

Officials here said today that the situation — involving a shoplifting incident and what appeared for a while to be the flight of a senior East German official to the West — could seriously upset East-West German ties.

West German authorities said they had issued an arrest order for Herbert Meissner, deputy secretary general of the East German Academy of Sciences and a noted economist, on suspicion of espionage. But East Germany accused the Bonn Government of seeking to kidnap Mr. Meissner, who was holed up today in the East German diplomatic mission here.

Mr. Meissner's odyssey to the West began last Wednesday when he was detained by the house detective of the large Wertheim department store in West Berlin for attempting to steal a \$12 bathroom shower hose.

According to the Bonn Government spokesman, Friedhelm Ost, Mr. Meissner told the West Berlin police that he would talk only to West German counterintelligence officials.

Authorities said he was taken to the counterintelligence headquarters at Pullach, near Munich, where he evidently signed an affidavit declaring that he had come to West Germany of his own accord and, according to Mr. Ost, "related that he had had contacts to the Ministry for State Security," the East German espionage service.

Mr. Meissner was apparently then put in a safe house near Munich, with little surveillance, but disappeared several days later and did not reappear until Lothar Glienke, the East German mission's second-in-command in Bonn, accused West Germany of seeking to kidnap Mr. Meissner and to blackmail



Agence France-Presse

Herbert Meissner of the East German Academy of Sciences.

the scholar into working for West German intelligence.

As it turned out, Mr. Meissner had by then sought refuge in the East German mission after apparently changing his mind about defecting to the West.

The office of Federal Prosecutor Kurt Rebmann then announced that an order for the arrest of Mr. Meissner had been issued, and Alexander Prechtel, the prosecutor's spokesman, said the suspicion was "activity as an espionage agent." The suspicion was evidently based on the affidavits the 59-year old East German had signed.

Mr. Ost said a representative of Chancellor Helmut Kohl held talks this afternoon with officials of the East German mission, and the spokesman said Bonn was interested "in clearing

up this affair quickly and fully."

"No one would be served if relations were irritated," Mr. Ost said.

Relations are already under strain because of West German charges that the East is failing to cooperate in limiting the number of political refugees who stream into West Berlin from the Communist eastern portion of the divided city.

The dispute over the refugees was highlighted today when serious fighting broke out at a refugee camp in Ingelheim, near Frankfurt. Three Ghanaians were seriously injured and five Lebanese arrested. Most of the 400 refugees at Ingelheim have come through East Berlin to the West.

Gottfried Hennig, the state secretary in the Ministry for Inter-German Affairs, has accused East Germany of recruiting Ghanaians with payments of dollars to come to West Germany via the East.

East German officials have charged until now that the free flow of refugees is not their problem, but that of the West, which refuses to control entry into West Berlin from the East because of the Western claim that all Berlin, East and West, remains an occupied area under postwar agreements and the line between the Eastern and Western portions of the city is not a border.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, is expected to broach the refugee issue with Soviet leaders when he travels to Moscow later this month, apparently in the hope that they will lean on their East German allies to be more conciliatory.

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